GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4820
ANSWERED ON:26.04.2000
PROBLEM OF COTTON GROWERS
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have been urged to help the cotton farmers of Andhra Pradesh State;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the main demands of the cotton farmers in the State of Andhra Pradesh; and

(c) the decision of the Union Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
(SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO)
(a) to (c): The Government of India is aware of the problems faced by the cottongrowers in the country including the State of Andhra Pradesh. To mitigate their problems, the Government of India have recently launched a Centrally Sponsored Scheme ofTechnology Mission on Cotton in various cotton growing states. The Technology Mission on Cotton comprises of four Mini Missions. The Mini Mission-I is to be dealt by the IndianCouncil of Agricultural Research for the development of area specific technologies including high yielding varieties/hybrids. The Department of Agriculture & Cooperation isthe nodal agency for the implementation of Mini Mission-II through the modification of the existing Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Intensive Cotton Development Programme forenhancing production of cotton. The Mini Mission-III for the development of marketinfrastructure and Mini Mission-IV on the modernization of ginning/pressing factories are to be implemented by the Ministry of Textiles.

In the Intensive Cotton Development Programme under Mini Mission-II, major thrusthas been given for the popularisation of Integrated pest management technology, use of delinting seeds, supply of water saving devices etc. The Intensive Cotton Development Programme covers major cotton growing states as well as efforts are being made to include the non-traditional states. The Scheme provides assistance for the transfer of technology through field demonstration, integrated pest management demonstration and farmers training etc. The farmers are also assisted for the use of certified seeds of newer varieties/hybrids, sprayers, drip/sprinklers, pheromone traps, bio-agents. The Schemealso envisages to establish seed delinting units and bio-agent laboratories, intensive surveillance of disease and pest situation.

Furthermore, to safeguard the cotton crop against the natural calamities, this crop has also been covered under National Agricultural Insurance Scheme with effect from Rabi, 1999-2000.